

I recently learned about Pappas Telecasting's 'donation' of \$325,000 in public airtime to Republican candidates in certain places. This is just another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the airwaves.

Localism, pluralism and democracy are not served when a corporate headquarters provides one side in local elections with a louder voice than others. Especially, during election season, local audiences should be offered genuine and balanced information and not gifts to one candidate and a bill to another.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and legally must serve the public interest. Pappas' actions at best, cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest and, at worst are illegal and could be prosecuted. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They also show why the license renewal process needs to be more critical and cautious. Thank you.